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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

the Gull

Volume 59 Berkeley, Calif. June 1977 Number 5

June Anniversary Dinner

Remember to circle Friday, June 17 on your calendar for our special 60th anniversary celebration at the Claremont Hotel. The featured speaker will be William Penn Mott, president of the California State Parks Foundation, and Phil Schaeffer will present a program about our national sanctuaries and their birds and wildlife populations. See your May *Gull* for details. All checks ($10 per person) should be made payable to and mailed to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave. #206, Berkeley, California 94705. The deadline for reservations is June 13.

Yosemite Bird Seminars

The Yosemite Natural History Association is sponsoring three bird courses this summer—Birds of Yosemite National Park: Their Populations and Breeding Ecology; Birds of the Yosemite Sierra: Their Natural History and Breeding Ecology; and Bird Migration in Yosemite: A Bird-Banding Workshop. The first two (June 17-19 and June 20-24, respectively) will be taught by David Gaines; the third (August 19-21) by Bob Stewart. All three may be taken for credit through UC (Berkeley) Extension. For more information write or call Seminar Coordinator, Yosemite Natural History Association, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite National Park, California 95389. Phone: (209) 372-4532.

March and April Observations

These months can best be dealt with in terms of lingering winter visitors, migrants, and returning nesting species. Many of our more interesting winterers remained into the period, the more notable of which included the Yellow-billed Loon at Princeton until at least 19 Mar (EM); the Lake Merritt male Tufted Duck which moved to the Pacific Marina in Alameda 19-28 Mar (KE), explaining its periodic absence from Lake Merritt; the Harlequin Duck at Brisbane until 20 Mar (DR); the Rock Sandpiper at Princeton until 19 Mar (EM); and the Ruff at Pacific Grove until 19 Mar (DbR). San Francisco's two Tropical Kingbirds prolonged their stays: at Golden Gate Park until 16 Mar (SL) and at Lake Merced until 29 Mar (BSe). Palo Alto's Harris' Sparrow, along with the White-throated Sparrow and the White-throated X Golden-crowned hybrid, stayed much of the period, and the Carmel River had a White-throated on 6 Mar and a Swamp Sparrow on 12 Mar (AJ, SLo).

Pelagics again were excellent. Monterey Bay had up to 15 Black-footed Albatross in late April, and two Black-footeds and two Laysan Albatross were viewed from shore at Pigeon Point 17 Mar (BS). More exciting, however, was the live **Mottled (Scaled) Petrel** found by several birding students inside Bolinas Lagoon on 1 May. The gentle bird appeared quite ill and was taken to International Bird Rescue in Berkeley, where it died several days later. Three previous Mottled Petrels have been found dead on California beaches in the past two years for the first official state records, but others have been reported by single observers offshore. Since a portion of the population summers in the Gulf of Alaska (while it is winter on the sub-antarctic islands where they nest) it is not surprising that a few migrants would pass our coast. Other interesting pelagics include three or four Short-tailed Shearwaters in Monterey Bay 6 Mar and one or two there 24 Apr (RS), and a Fork-tailed Storm-petrel on 6 Mar (RS). Sightings of one Xantus' Murrelet in Monterey Bay on 6 Mar and two on 24 Apr continued to document their presence this winter.

Among the shorebird finds were two American Golden Plovers (which could have wintered locally) at Pigeon Point on 17 Mar (BS), and a high count of 19 uncommon Lesser Yellowlegs at Dumbarton Bridge on 6 Mar (EM). A rash of Glaucous Gulls was found in early March: Carmel River lagoon 7-12 Mar (AH, DbR), Newby Island dump, Santa Clara Co. and Turk Island dump, Alameda Co. on 8 Mar (DE; the former bird was an **adult,** probably only the third ever seen in California-, and at Tomales Bay on 18 Mar (BSo). Single observers spotted an adult **Little Gull** at the

Pajaro River mouth 13 Apr (RW) and off Pigeon Point 16 Apr (BS) in flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls. Since this is only the sixth California record, speculation attributes the sightings to the same individual bird. Three Arctic Terns in Monterey Bay on 24 Apr (RS) fit into the pattern of a migration of small numbers just offshore in spring; Common Terns migrate in somewhat greater numbers offshore. A Black Tern along the Santa Cruz coast on 23 Apr also fits with the previous few sightings of this species on the coast (EM).

Among passerines the best find was a **Lucy's Warbler,** which probably wintered locally, at the mouth of the Carmel River on 6 Mar (RS). There are very few previous northern California records. Migrant warblers were best found on mountain tops. A singing Black-and-white Warbler was reported from Mt. Tamalpais 2 May (DG), early for this rare migrant, and an incredible 75 Hermit Warblers were seen at Mt. Diablo on 26 Apr (JRi)—this is the highest number of this regular migrant at one place that I have heard of. Recently it has been noted that small numbers of Hammond's, Dusky, and Gray Flycatchers pass through our area. This spring seven Duskys, three Grays, and one Hammond's were reported (PRBO, JM, JRi), which appears to be the normal proportions. The Gray Flycatcher, with its distinctive downward tail-flick, is recognizable by observers who have learned the Western Flycatcher well, but only experienced birders should attempt to distinguish Hammond's and Dusky in migration. However, a combination of field marks and actions on the bird's part can lead to correct identification in most cases. Interesting was an observation of a Hermit X Townsend's Warbler hybrid at Moss Beach 17 Mar (JM), as very few of this cross have been found, and they resemble somewhat the Black-throated Green Warbler.

Among our nesting birds, the Costa's Hummingbird returned to the local outpost of its range in Del Puerto Canyon 27 Mar, a Yellow-billed Magpie wandered far from its normal haunts to Pt. Reyes 21 Apr (DG), and Red Crossbills continued to be found on Mt. Tamalpais and on Inverness Ridge (NS) through early May; they have nested near the coast previously. The drought may be responsible for pushing species normally found in the Inner Coast Ranges toward the coast. Lawrence's Goldfinches were more widespread than usual, a singing Black-chinned Sparrow was found in upper Strawberry Canyon, Oakland, on 1 May (NS), and one of Alameda County's few records of Grasshopper Sparrow was singing along Mill Creek Rd. out of Fremont on 23 Apr (EM).

Finally, you will note that a change in style has occurred. From now on, I'll boldface only species very unusual in our area (by distribution, or season, or place of sighting).

Observers: Kathleen Edises, Dick Erickson, Doug Gomke, Anne-Lisa Hansen, Anthony James, Stephen Long (SLo), Susanne Luther (SL),

Eugene Makishima, Joe Morlan, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Jean Richmond (JRi), Don Roberson (DR), Debi Robinson (DbR), Barry Sauppe (BS), Barry Sealy (BSe), Bruce Sorrie (BSo), Rich Stallcup, Nick Story, Ricky Warriner.

—DON ROBERSON, *Observations Editor*
2244 Encinal Avenue #5
Alameda, California 94501 (865-2462)

Field Trips Calendar

Wednesday, June 8—Mini-trip to Audubon Canyon Ranch. Details in May *Gull.* For information call Hap Fraser (661-8891) after June 1.

Saturday & Sunday, June 11 & 12—Yuba Pass and vicinity. Details in May *Gull.* If you cannot reach the leaders, call the GGAS office (843-2222) for latest information on trip and Saturday night dinner. Leaders: Beth Snyder (841-1747) and Marie Mans (284-7681).

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, June 24, 25, & 26—Lassen Volcanic National Park—a family birding experience. We'll meet **all three mornings at 6:30 a.m.** by the store at the Manzanita Lake campground for a 2-3 mile hike appropriate for beginning and intermediate birders, providing a good chance to get away from the family for a while and do some serious birding. On the same three days **meet again at 10:20 a.m.** at the same place for mid-day hikes for the whole family; the pace will be set for small children (or those of us who aren't quite in shape). Bring day packs, lunches, liquids, insect repellant, suntan lotion, and sturdy shoes. Lassen provides a variety of habitats and birdlife in some areas is abundant. Clark's Nutcracker, Dipper, Spotted Sandpiper, and White-headed Woodpecker are often seen; Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker and Red Crossbill are good possibilities. Best place to camp is at Manzanita Lake. There are motel facilities nearby but not in the park. Leaders: Dan Murphy and family (654-0074). For further information call us, or look us up in the camp register at Lassen and drop by our camp.

To arrange carpooling for any of these trips, call Kate Partridge, Carpool Coordinator, at 849-1951 (home) or 642-3628 (8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Summer Birding Classes in Albany

The six-week summer session at Albany Adult School will include two GGAS-sponsored classes stressing field identification of wild birds.

Intermediate Field Ornithology will meet Tuesday evenings, starting June 21, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. It will be suitable for those who know

CONSERVATION ALERT June, 1977

ALASKA LAND HEARING

The critical conservation opportunity of deciding the fate of some 125 million acres of public and national interest lands in Alaska is now before us. Congressmen Morris Udall, John Seiberling, and the 78 co-sponsors of House Resolution 39 (HR 39), the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1977, are seeking a citizen mandate to protect 114 million acres as National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

A formal Congressional hearing of the Alaska Lands Subcommittee will be held in San Francisco: June 18, at 9:30 a.m.
San Francisco Board of Education
135 Van Ness Avenue
The purpose of the hearing is to allow citizens an opportunity to appear and testify. Requests to testify must be made in writing at least one week prior to the hearing. Write your request to: Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands
1327 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Those of you who wish to come to show your support but, do not wish to testify are encouraged to come and let your presence be felt. The Board of Directors of GGAS urges you to attend this hearing. Congress is seeking popular support from all citizens to protect the integrity of Alaska's natural resources for present and future generations.

Please write your Congressman (Burton, Dellums, or Stark; they are all co-sponsors of HR 39) urging him to testify in San Francisco: House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR RESPONSIBLE PORPOISE PROTECTION

The Carter Administration has introduced in the House of Representatives strengthening amendments to the Marine Mammals Protection Act. These measures deal with standards, observers, porpoise protection, foreign kill and funding questions.

The firm stance of the Administration's proposal is essential to our bargaining position with Japan and Russia in our efforts to reduce their killing of whales. They have claimed that the U.S. has no right to tell them to reduce whale deaths since the U.S. is responsible for more cetacean deaths than all other nations combined.

In the Senate, Senator Magnuson has submitted a bill favoring the porpoises, SB 1550.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to your representative, c/o House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, in support of the Administration amendments. Contact your senators, c/o Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, in support of SB 1550. Write to President Carter to thank him for taking a fair position and ask him to hold firm in defending it.

most of the common species around the Bay Area and wish to sharpen their birding skills.

Advanced Field Ornithology will meet Thursday evenings, starting June 23, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. It is designed to meet the needs of those primarily interested in rare birds and in identifying confusing gulls, terns, warblers, etc.

Both courses will be held at Albany High School, 603 Key Route Blvd.; field trips will be arranged for alternate Saturdays. A registration fee of $5.50 covers tuition for all classes at the school.

Additional field trips suitable for intermediate students will be offered Thursday mornings. Come to an organizational meeting at 8:00 a.m. June 23 at the MacGregor School, 601 San Gabriel Ave., Albany. Details on meeting sites for subsequent field trips will be given out then.

The instructor for these classes will be Joe Morlan, compiler of our Northern California Rare Bird Alert. For further information call the school at 526-6441 (days) or 525-7131 (evenings).

Public Meetings on USNPS Plans

The U.S. National Park Service will hold a series of public meetings this month on its General Management Plan for Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore:

1. Saturday, June 11, 9:30 a.m., Fort Mason Visitor Center, GGNRA Headquarters, Fort Mason, San Francisco.
2. Wednesday, June 15, 7:30 p.m., West Marin School, Point Reyes Station.
3. Wednesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m., Fort Mason Visitor Center.
4. Saturday, June 25, 9:30 a.m., Tamalpais High School Student Center, Mill Valley.
5. Wednesday, June 29, 7:30 p.m., The "Y" House, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.

National Park Service staff will be available one hour prior to each meeting for discussion.

Conservation Notes

WHALES

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) will be meeting in Canberra, Australia on June 20-25. It is hoped that the United States will support a moratorium on whaling. Whether the IWC would consider such a resolution remains to be seen. An additional problem is that there are a number of nations involved in whaling that do not adhere to IWC regulations.

Project Jonah (P.O. Box 476, Bolinas, California 94924) has a whale

bus with movies, audio-visual displays and records for schools, camps and special programs. For more information, contact Barbara Belding at 843-3138. A brochure on the whale bus and a teaching kit on whales are available without charge from Project Jonah.

ALASKA

Congress is in the process of studying the various bills concerning Alaska. The Endangered Wilderness Act (H.R. 34) would give immediate wilderness designation to a number of areas, including parts of Alaska. One area included in the bill, West Chicagof-Yakobi Island in southeast Alaska, is the site of a possible molybdenum mine. The draft environmental impact statement for the road to be built to the site is inadequate and conservationists are requesting that a new one be written. For more information on this and other important matters in southeast Alaska, write to the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Box 2778, Juneau, Alaska 99803.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

News from Audubon Canyon Ranch

Spring nesting activities are well under way with the Great Blue Herons occupying about 40 nests, but staff and friends of the ranch spent many worried hours searching for the first signs of the graceful egrets. Finally on 23 April a few pairs settled into the redwood tops. As of 14 May there are 47 active Great Egret nests. This year the birds were six to seven weeks later than the normal dates observed over the past decade. Following the disastrous year of 1975 when the egrets lost nearly all progeny to raccoons, the egrets were a month late. Last year the raccoons and Great Horned Owls predated over a quarter of the young and there was great concern this spring when the egrets didn't appear. We will probably never be able to explain this delay, but it may be related to the predation, or to two years of drought and possible food reduction, or a combinatin of other unknowns. As a precautionary program, the staff has trimmed dead limbs from the redwoods, felled leaning trees, is managing the garbage situation more carefully, and is starting a live capture-and-release program with raccoons in the canyon.

We are happy to announce that all permits have been secured to start summer construction of a sleeping dormitory at Volunteer Canyon for our educational programs. The roofed deck will provide sheltered sleeping and bathroom accommodations for 26 students and will be built by students from the California College of Arts and Crafts. No power tools will be used on this unique structure, which will feature solar-heated water, wind-generated electricity, and two-quart flush toilets.

Your generous support is helping us maintain the Audubon tradition of conservation. Thank you.

—JOHN KIPPING, *Resident Naturalist*

Thanks, Gordie

Gordon Bolander led a field trip for us on April 3, to Bodega Bay. It was a fine trip, beeause Bodega Bay is a great plaee to bird, and nobody knows it better than Gordon. He stayed out with us as long as any of us had energy left.

Not many days after our trip, he left with a eouple of his friends on a birding jaunt to Costa Riea. While they waited in Los Angeles for a ehange of planes, Gordie had a stroke. He died on April 21, at age 64.

The history of birding in the Bay Area is eonneeted at many points with the history of Gordon Bolander. He was a founder of the Oakland Ornithologieal Club at Teeh High in the 1920's, and a eontributor to *The Gull* in the 30's. He studied ornithology with Joseph Grinnell at the University of California in Berkeley, then worked for the Department of Fish and Game for several years before and after World War II. He then beeame a student again and earned a teaehing eredential at San Franeiseo State College, following whieh he beeame a teaeher in the Santa Rosa sehool system. He was a charter member and first president of the Redwood Region Ornithologieal Soeiety, editor of *Kite Tales,* eompiler of the Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count, and a regular eontributor to *American Birds* and to USF&WS breeding bird eensuses. He and Mike Parmeter had nearly finished a book on the birds of Sonoma County.

Biographieal notes of this kind do not reveal that Gordon was also an exeeptionally niee man. He gave a lot of himself to birding and to other birders. Thanks, Gordie.

—NICK STORY

Gifts and Bequests

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In memory of:

William Stoekle ..... Jeannette Voss

J. Alan Campbell ..... Mr. and Mrs. James Wehr

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THE GULL

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: third Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national $15 per year (individual); $18 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks (no cash) payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately $3 per year; single issues 30¢. High school and college student membership $8.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, $12.00; senior citizen family, $15.00.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**